

## ABSENCE OF PAIN

my arm  
asleep

needles  
of pain

sprinkling  
through it

I cut  
my hand off

and reach out  
feeling

the absence  
of pain

blossom  
like a flower

## SNAKES

I was always afraid  
of snakes

but when you turned  
the light on

and uncoiled  
that thing

to show me  
suddenly

I realized how  
wrong

I'd been.  
Since then

I've spent  
most of my life

hunting  
snakes.

-- William Virgil Davis

Oak Park IL

## AMARANTHUS

under the rule  
of saturn it helps  
unruly actions  
and passions of  
venus the flowers  
dried and beaten  
to a powder stop  
the terms in most  
women as do many  
other red things  
the flowers stop  
the blood at nose  
or wound the ones  
with a whiteflower  
stop the whites  
in women and the  
running of the  
veins in men

## WATERCRESS

under the moon's  
rule powerful  
against scurvy  
to clear the  
blood break a  
stone provokes  
urine and women's  
curses you know  
the leaves bruised  
are good applied  
to the face for  
pimples the juice  
mixed with vinegar  
is good for those  
that are dull  
or drowsey